

flights, are superior in quality and size to those grown on Earth. This means that researchers can better develop drugs to battle disease.

In fact, protein crystal grown on the shuttle have already allowed researchers to develop drugs that are in FDA trials even as we speak.

But the growth of many crystals requires more than a few days available aboard the shuttle. That is why we need the space shuttle.

It will permit researchers to grow their crystals in a nearly perfect microgravity environment for long periods of time.

Mr. Speaker, researchers from universities and companies around the world strongly support the international space station, and I urge my colleagues to do the same.

#### MAY 7, 1996, TAX FREEDOM DAY

(Mr. HAYWORTH asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. HAYWORTH. Mr. Speaker, I offer congratulations to you and congratulations to every hard-working American taxpayer. Or should I say offer condolences? Because at long last, today, May 7, is tax freedom day.

We have heard a lot of talk, a lot of playground taunts about the gas tax and repealing the Clinton gas tax. That would be but a modest first step, a reasonable first step.

Let me put it in perspective, Mr. Speaker. One of my constituents stopped by my Washington office this morning and told me in the wake of Bill Clinton's tax increase, the largest in American history, including retroactive taxes, her tax bill increased 213 percent.

That is compassion? That is common sense?

Mr. Speaker, in the words of my colleague from Ohio, beam me up.

#### A REAL MOTHER'S DAY TRIBUTE; PASS CHILD SUPPORT ENFORCEMENT REFORM

(Mrs. ROUKEMA asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. ROUKEMA. Mr. Speaker, Mother's Day is just a few short days away, and I have a great idea for the congressional leadership and President Clinton.

For all the mothers of America, let us enact tough new child support enforcement reforms.

Last year this Congress voted to give the States the tools and the teeth to enforce child support orders when it passed the welfare reform package. Unfortunately, the President vetoed that bill, and the child support reforms along with it, and since that time child support has been tangled in the larger welfare reform debate.

Mr. Speaker, enough is enough. No more excuses, no more delays. The

children are suffering. Let us pass this legislation now. No one expects the welfare reform dispute to be settled for months, if at all. Yet we all agree on a bipartisan basis on the reforms to strengthen our child support system.

Child support evasion is a national disgrace. Each year millions of families are denied billions of dollars to which they are legally and morally entitled. First the children are the victims and, second, the taxpayers. Let us pass this legislation.

#### GIVE THE TAXPAYERS A BREAK—REPEAL THE CLINTON GAS TAX

(Mrs. SEASTRAND asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. SEASTRAND. Mr. Speaker, the Clinton crunch is hitting the American people hard. The most conspicuous evidence of the Clinton crunch right now is the soaring gas prices all over our Nation. Back in 1993, President Clinton enacted the largest tax increase in our Nation's history. And included in this tax package was a \$4.8 billion tax increase on gasoline. This Clinton gas tax is hitting all consumers right where it hurts—in the wallet.

Mr. Speaker, the American people want to keep more of what they earn, not continue to give more and more of their hard-earned money to the Federal Government. I call on my Democrat colleagues to support a repeal of the Clinton gas tax. While \$4.8 billion may not seem like much money to some of the Clinton Democrats, it's considered a whole lot of money to the majority of the American people.

Give the taxpayers a break. Repeal the Clinton gas tax.

#### LET US BE FAIR

(Mr. FAZIO of California asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. FAZIO of California. Mr. Speaker, we read in the Washington Post this morning that Leader ARMEY is taking the leading role in defining the remainder of this Congress' Republican revolution. Apparently the revolution he wants to bring about is to cut education so that we can go about reducing the gas tax without any promise, any commitment that that will actually be passed through to consumers.

While oil companies are profiting, and obviously many are based in his home State of Texas, we seem to think the only way we can help people who are suffering from incredible increases at the pump would be to cut programs that will help their children.

This is the same leader who indicates we ought not to have a minimum wage, let alone an increase in it, that would take it, in real dollars, from 1950 to 1960.

It seems to me if we are going to address the issue of cutting taxes on gasoline without passing them through to

consumers, we certainly ought to be willing to take up the issue of a minimum wage for those people who struggle each day to put food on the table for their families. That would be a fair way to lead this institution.

□ 1430

#### SUPPORT ELIMINATION OF THE GAS TAX

(Mr. CUNNINGHAM asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. CUNNINGHAM. Mr. Speaker, if the gentleman from California, who just spoke, was not on the big spenders list every year, then those folks would have more money in their pocket instead of increasing the deficit so much.

Mr. Speaker, they said, Do we want to repeal the gas tax? Yes. Do we want to repeal the Social Security tax that the 1993 Clinton tax package put on our senior citizens? The President promised a middle-class tax cut. Instead, he increased the marginal rate on the taxes for the middle class.

The Democrats want to protect the power, the power to tax you, to bring money to Washington, DC, to support a big bureaucracy, and then turn that money back around and give it to you for education, as low as 23 cents on a dollar, so they can fund their big Federal bureaucracy. If they want to help education, look at Haiti, look at Somalia, look at Bosnia: Billions of dollars for the President to send our troops. And guess what? Aristide is still there, Aideed is still there, and in Bosnia it is going to cost \$10 billion. If they want to help education, cut out the foreign expansion. Support elimination of the gas tax.

#### WHITEWATER INDEPENDENT COUNSEL SHOULD FOCUS ON THE JOB AT HAND

(Mr. MEEHAN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. MEEHAN. Mr. Speaker, the calls for Whitewater Independent Counsel Kenneth Starr to address concerns over his outside legal practice continue to mount. This weekend, former independent counsels—both Democrats and Republicans—added their voice to the chorus of concerned citizens questioning the judgment and independence of Mr. Starr.

Lawrence Walsh, former judge and independent counsel for Iran Contra, said: "The one excuse for an Independent Counsel is his independence \* \* \* he can't be involved with anything that impairs his freedom of action."

And Gerald J. Gallinghouse, another Republican who investigated President Jimmy Carter said, "He should either get in or get out."

Mr. Starr's investigation is now almost 2 years old and is costing the taxpayers about \$1 million a month. At

the same time, Mr. Starr continues to maintain an enormous private legal practice which includes many of the President's fiercest political enemies. In fact, it seems that the only criteria is to be an enemy of the Clinton administration.

The issue is perception and confidence. I call on Mr. Starr once again—put the private legal practice on hold and focus on the job at hand—the public deserves nothing less.

#### TAX FREEDOM DAY

(Mr. RIGGS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. RIGGS. Mr. Speaker, all the attacks in the world on Mr. Starr are not going to distract attention from the fact that 16 indictments and 9 convictions later, the Whitewater investigation proceeds.

Mr. Speaker, today is tax freedom day. It is the day Americans stop working for the Government and start working for themselves. Tax freedom day is now 128 days into the year. That's up 6 days since Bill Clinton took over the White House.

Six days is over a week's worth of work. That's another paycheck the American people will not see because Bill Clinton raised taxes in 1993.

Today, the average family pays almost 40 percent of their income in taxes. That is wrong. A 40-percent tax rate is simply too much for a struggling family.

Bill Clinton may be riding high in the polls today. But that does not change the reality that he is a big government tax and spend liberal who gave Americans the largest tax increase in history and who fought against and vetoed any tax relief for America's families.

Happy tax freedom day, Mr. Speaker.

#### DO NOT REPEAL THE GAS TAX BY TAKING AWAY DOLLARS FOR EDUCATION

(Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, let me say that I am willing to celebrate tax freedom day. I have gone on record to support a repeal of the gas tax for 4.3 percent. But how ludicrous that Republican colleagues seem to want to give not only freedom to the taxpayers, but a big ax to the taxpayers: Repeal the gas tax, but let us hit them upside the head by taking away education dollars.

What sense does that make, Mr. Speaker? Is it not fair that we say to the American people, yes, we want a repeal of the gas tax if it goes directly back to the American consumer, but yet, we are not going to hit you about the head on tax freedom day and take away education dollars from your children?

I am not sure what this House intends to do, but Mr. Speaker, I hope for once that we will be fair to the American people. One, we will support education for their children with loans and title I and Goals 2000, and will not make these ridiculous statements about taking away education dollars from our children; and yes, we will repeal the gas tax, and we will do it with a 4.3-percent repeal that goes directly back to the consumers. I hope if we look at giving something back to the taxpayers, we will look somewhere else, not take away education dollars.

#### REPUBLICAN LEADERSHIP WANTS TO CUT EDUCATION FUNDS TO GIVE TAX BREAKS

(Mr. MARKEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. MARKEY. Mr. Speaker, the Republican leadership wants to cut education funds for children in this country in order to give a tax break which is going to wind up in the pockets of oil companies, by every economic analyst's view in this country. Yesterday's Wall Street Journal reports that the first quarter profits at the big oil companies went up 41 percent in the first 3 months of this year. The five top executives at the six top oil companies in the last 2 months enjoyed 32 million dollars' worth of increases in their stock options; the oil company executives, \$735 apiece went to each oil company executive. Clearly, the oil company executives are not upset about higher prices at the pump. They are crying all the way to the bank.

Who are we going to ask to pay for this? The children of the country, in cutting education programs for them. How about looking at the oil companies? They are tipping consumers upside down and shaking money out of their pockets.

#### PERMISSION FOR SUNDRY COMMITTEES AND THEIR SUBCOMMITTEES TO SIT TODAY DURING THE 5-MINUTE RULE

Mr. RIGGS. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the following committees and their subcommittees be permitted to sit today while the House is meeting in the Committee of the Whole House under the 5-minute rule: The Committee on Commerce, the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, and the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence.

It is my understanding that the minority has been consulted and that there is no objection to these requests.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. FOLEY). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from California?

There was no objection.

#### ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the provisions of clause 5 of rule I, the Chair announces that he will postpone further proceedings today on each motion to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered, or on which the vote is objected to under clause 4 of rule XV.

Such rollcall votes, if postponed, will be taken later today.

#### AUTHORIZING USE OF CAPITOL GROUNDS FOR EVENT SPONSORED BY SPECIALTY EQUIPMENT MARKET ASSOCIATION

Mr. GILCHREST. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 150) authorizing the use of the Capitol Grounds for an event sponsored by the Specialty Equipment Market Association, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

##### H. CON. RES. 150

Whereas the United States public has demonstrated a continuing love affair with motor vehicles since their introduction 100 years ago, enjoying vehicles for transportation, for enthusiast endeavors ranging from racing to show competitions, and as a mode of individual expression;

Whereas research and development in connection with motorsports competition and speciality applications have provided consumers with life-saving safety features, including seat belts, air bags, and many other important innovations;

Whereas hundreds of thousands of amateur and professional participants enjoy motorsports competitions each year throughout the United States;

Whereas such competitions have a total annual attendance in excess of 14,500,000 spectators, making the competitions among the most widely attended in United States sports; and

Whereas sales of motor vehicle parts and accessories for performance and appearance enhancement, restoration, and modification exceeded \$15,000,000,000 in 1995, resulting in 500,000 jobs for United States citizens: Now therefore, be it

*Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring),*

#### SECTION 1. USE OF CAPITOL GROUNDS FOR SPECIALTY MOTOR VEHICLE AND EQUIPMENT EVENT.

On May 16, 1996, or such other date as the Speaker of the House of Representatives and the President pro tempore of the Senate may jointly designate there is authorized to be conducted on the Capitol Grounds a public event (in this resolution referred to as the "event") displaying racing, restored, and customized motor vehicles and transporters.

#### SEC. 2. CONDITIONS.

The event shall be free of admission charge to the public and arranged not to interfere with the needs of Congress, under conditions to be prescribed by the Architect of the Capitol and the Capitol Police Board. The sponsor of the event shall assume full responsibility for all expenses and liabilities incident to all activities associated with the event.

#### SEC. 3. STRUCTURE AND EQUIPMENT.

For the purposes of this resolution, the sponsor of the event is authorized to erect upon the Capitol Grounds, subject to the approval of the Architect of the Capitol, such